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You may contact the creditor that garnished your account and explain that additional funds are from Federal benefit payments and should be released back to you. (Conditional sentence if contact information is in the garnishment order) The creditor may be contacted at [contact information included in the garnishment order].

You may also consult an attorney (lawyer) to help you prove to the creditor who garnished your account that additional funds are from Federal benefit payments and cannot be taken. If you cannot afford an attorney, you can seek assistance from a free attorney or a legal aid society. (Optional sentences) [Name of State, local, or independent legal aid service] is an organization that provides free legal aid and can be reached at [contact information]. You can find information about other free legal aid programs at [insert "http://www.lawhelp.org" or other legal aid programs website].

(Optional section) How to contact [name of financial institution].

This notice contains all the information that we have about the garnishment order. However, if you have a question about your account, you may contact us at [contact number].

APPENDIX B TO PART 212—FORM OF NOTICE OF RIGHT TO GARNISH FEDERAL BENEFITS

The United States, or a State child support enforcement agency, certifying its right to garnish Federal benefits shall attach or include with a garnishment order the following Notice, on official organizational letterhead.

Information in brackets should be completed by the United States or a State child support enforcement agency, as applicable. Where the bracketed information indicates a choice of words, as indicated by a slash, the appropriate words should be selected from the options.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO GARNISH FEDERAL BENEFITS

Date:

[Garnishment Order Number]/[State Case ID]:_____

The attached garnishment order was [obtained by the United States, pursuant to the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act, 28 U.S.C. §3205, or the Mandatory Victims Restitution Act, 18 U.S.C. §3613, or other Federal statute]/[issued by (name of the State child support enforcement agency), pursuant to authority to attach or seize assets of noncustodial parents in financial institutions in the State of (name of State), 42 U.S.C. §6661.

Accordingly, the garnishee is hereby notified that the procedures established under 31 CFR part 212 for identifying and protecting Federal benefits deposited to accounts at fi-

nancial institutions do not apply to this garnishment order.

The garnishee should comply with the terms of this order, including instructions for withholding and retaining any funds deposited to any account(s) covered by this order, pending further order of [name of the court]/[the name of the State child support enforcement agency].

APPENDIX C TO PART 212—EXAMPLES OF THE LOOKBACK PERIOD AND PRO-TECTED AMOUNT

The following examples illustrate this definition of *lookback period*.

Example 1: Account review performed same day garnishment order is served. A financial institution receives garnishment order on Wednesday, March 17. The financial institution performs account review the same day on Wednesday, March 17. The lookback period begins on Tuesday, March 16, the date preceding the date of account review. The lookback period ends on Saturday, January 16, the corresponding date two months earlier.

Example 2: Account review performed the day after garnishment order is served. A financial institution receives garnishment order on Wednesday, November 17. The financial institution performs account review next business day on Thursday, November 18. The lookback period begins on Wednesday, November 17, the date preceding the date of account review. The lookback period ends on Friday, September 17, the corresponding date two months earlier.

Example 3: No corresponding date two months earlier. A financial institution receives garnishment order on Tuesday, August 30. The financial institution performs the account review two business days later on Thursday, September 1. The lookback period begins on Wednesday, August 31, the date preceding the date of account review. The lookback period ends on Wednesday, June 30, the last date of the month two months earlier, since June 31 does not exist to correspond with August 31.

Example 4: Weekend between receipt of garnishment order and account review. A financial institution receives garnishment order on Friday, December 10. The financial institution performs the account review two business days later on Tuesday, December 14. The lookback period begins on Monday, December 13, the date preceding the date of account review. The lookback period ends on Wednesday, October 13, the corresponding date two months earlier.

The following examples illustrate the definition of *protected amount*.

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Example 1: Account balance less than sum of benefit payments. A financial institution receives a garnishment order against an account holder for \$2,000 on May 20. The date of account review is the same day, May 20, and the balance in the account when the review is performed is \$1.000. The lookback period begins on May 19, the date preceding the date of account review, and ends on March 19, the corresponding date two months earlier. The account review shows that two Federal benefit payments were deposited to the account during the lookback period totaling \$2,500, one for \$1,250 on Friday, April 30 and one for \$1,250 on Tuesday, April 1. Since the \$1.000 balance in the account when the account review is performed is less than the \$2,500 sum of benefit payments posted to the account during the lookback period, the financial institution establishes the protected amount at \$1,000. The financial institution is not required to send a notice to the account holder.

Example 2: Three benefit payments during lookback period. A financial institution receives a garnishment order against an account holder for \$8,000 on December 2. The date of account review is the same day, December 2, and the balance in the account when the account review is performed is \$5,000. The lookback period begins on December 1, the date preceding the date of account review, and ends on October 1, the corresponding date two months earlier. The account review shows that three Federal benefit payments were deposited to the account during the lookback period totaling \$4,500, one for \$1,500 on December 1, another for \$1,500 on November 1, and a third for \$1,500 on October 1. Since the \$4,500 sum of the three benefit payments posted to the account during the lookback period is less than the \$5,000 balance in the account when the account review is performed, the financial institution establishes the protected amount at \$4,500 and seizes the remaining \$500 in the account consistent with State law. The financial institution is required to send a notice to the account holder.

Example 3: Intraday transactions. A financial institution receives a garnishment order against an account holder for \$4,000 on Friday, September 10. The date of account review is Monday, September 13, when the opening balance in the account is \$6,000. A cash withdrawal for \$1,000 is processed after the open of business on September 13, but before the financial institution has performed the account review, so that the balance in the account is \$5,000 when the financial institution initiates an automated program to conduct the account review. The lookback period begins on Sunday, September 12, the date preceding the date of account review, and ends on Monday, July 12, the corresponding date two months earlier. The account review shows that two Federal benefit

payments were deposited to the account during the lookback period totaling \$3,000, one for \$1,500 on Wednesday, July 21, and the other for \$1,500 on Wednesday, August 18. Since the \$3,000 sum of the two benefit payments posted to the account during the lookback period is less than the \$5,000 balance in the account when the account review is performed, the financial institution establishes the protected amount at \$3,000 and, consistent with State law, freezes the \$2,000 remaining in the account after the cash withdrawal. The financial institution is required to send a notice to the account holder.

Example 4: Benefit payment on date of account review. A financial institution receives a garnishment order against an account holder for \$5,000 on Thursday, July 1. The date of account review is the same day. July 1, when the opening balance in the account is \$3,000, and reflects a Federal benefit payment of \$1,000 posted that day. The lookback period begins on Wednesday, June 30, the date preceding the date of account review, and ends on Friday, April 30, the corresponding date two months earlier. The account review shows that two Federal benefit payments were deposited to the account during the lookback period totaling \$2,000, one for \$1,000 on Friday, April 30 and one for \$1,000 on Tuesday, June 1. Since the \$2,000 sum of the two benefit payments posted to the account during the lookback period is less than the \$3,000 balance in the account when the account review is performed, the financial institution establishes the protected amount at \$2,000 and places a hold on the remaining \$1,000 in the account in accordance with State law. The financial institution is required to send a notice to the account hold-

Example 5: Account co-owners with benefit payments. A financial institution receives a garnishment order against an account holder for \$3,800 on March 22. The date of account review is the same day, March 22, and the balance in the account is \$7,000. The lookback period begins on March 21, the date preceding the date of account review, and ends on January 21, the corresponding date two months earlier. The account review shows that four Federal benefit payments were deposited to the account during the lookback period totaling \$7,000. Two of these benefit payments, totaling \$3,000, were made to the account holder against whom the garnishment order was issued. The other two payments, totaling \$4,000, were made to a coowner of the account. Since the financial institution must perform the account review based only on the presence of benefit payments, without regard to the existence of coowners on the account or payments to multiple beneficiaries or under multiple programs, the financial institution establishes the protected amount at \$7,000, equal to the

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sum of the four benefit payments posted to the account during the lookback period. Since \$7,000 is also the balance in the account at the time of the account review, there are no additional funds in the account which can be frozen. The financial institution is not required to send a notice to the account holder.

[76 FR 9955, Feb. 23, 2011, as amended at 78 FR 32109, May 29, 2013]

PART 215—WITHHOLDING OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, STATE, CITY AND COUNTY INCOME OR EMPLOYMENT TAXES BY FEDERAL AGENCIES

Subpart A—General Information

Sec.

215.1 Scope of part.

215.2 Definitions.

Subpart B—Procedures

- 215.3 Procedures for entering into a Withholding Agreement.
- 215.4 Relationship of Withholding Agreement to prior agreements.

Subpart C—Withholding Agreement

- 215.5 In general.
- 215.6 Parties.
- 215.7 Compliance by agencies.
- 215.8 Withholding certificates.
- 215.9 Change of legal residence by members of the Armed Forces.
- 215.10 Agency withholding procedures.
- 215.11 Miscellaneous provisions.
- 215.12 Supersession, amendment and termination provisions.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5516, 5517, 5520; E.O. 11997, 42 FR 31759.

Source: 42 FR 33731, July 1, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Information

§215.1 Scope of part.

This part relates to agreements between the Secretary of the Treasury and States (including the District of Columbia), cities or counties for withholding of State, city or county income or employment taxes from the compensation of civilian Federal employees, and for the withholding of State income taxes from the compensation of members of the Armed Forces. Subpart A contains general information and definitions. Subpart B prescribes the

procedures to be followed in entering into an agreement for the withholding of State, city or county income or employment taxes. Subpart C is the Withholding Agreement which the Secretary will enter into with any State, city or county which qualifies to have the tax withheld.

[71 FR 2150, Jan. 13, 2006]

§ 215.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (a) Agency means each of the executive agencies and military departments (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 105 and 102, respectively) and the United States Postal Service; and in addition, for city or county withholding purposes only, all elements of the judicial branch.
- (b) City means any unit of general local government.
 - (1) Which:
- (A) Is classified as a municipality by the United States Bureau of the Census, or
- (B) Is a town or township which, in the determination of the Secretary of the Treasury,
- (i) Possesses powers and performs functions comparable to those associated with municipalities,
 - (ii) Is closely settled, and
- (iii) Contains within its boundaries no incorporated places as defined by the United States Bureau of the Census: and
- (2) Within the political boundaries of which five hundred or more persons are regularly employed by all agencies of the Federal Government.
- (c) City income or employment taxes means any form of tax for which, under a city ordinance:
- (1) Collection is provided by imposing on employers generally the duty of withholding sums from the pay of employees and making returns of the sums to a designated city officer, department, or instrumentality; and
- (2) The duty to withhold generally is imposed on the payment of compensation earned within the jurisdiction of the city in the case of employees whose regular place of employment is within such jurisdiction. Whether the tax is described as an income, wage, payroll, earnings, occupational license, or otherwise, is immaterial.